



PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 243

30 April 1974

PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

The Prime Minister, Mr. Whitlam, announced tonight that he had written to the Town Clerks and members of each local government body in Australia about the forthcoming referendum on local government.

Mr. Whitlam said that it was important that each local government organisation knew the real facts about the referendum which would be put to the people on May 18. Mr. Whitlam said that if the referendum was carried the Australian Government would be able to make funds available directly to local government both by way of grants and by loans at lower interest rates, so that urban and rural councils and other local government bodies could be freed from the financial straightjacket of the past.

Mr. Whitlam said that he had urged each local government body to give support in their area for a YES vote on May 18. He said he had also forwarded to each local government body copies of his many speeches on local government and its financial relations with the national Government.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

DEPT. OF THE PRIME MINISTER
AND CABINET